

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 614
By Jackson

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Henry Ragan of Dickson.

WHEREAS, it was with great sadness and a profound sense of loss that the members of this General Assembly and the citizens of our state learned of the death of Mr. Henry Ragan; and

WHEREAS, Henry Ragan was a distinguished citizen of the state of Tennessee who was very dedicated to his profession, community and family; and

WHEREAS, perhaps his greatest qualities were the friendship he extended to all he met and the sense of fairness and concern for humanity that were so evident in the exemplary life he lived; and

WHEREAS, Henry Ragan was a very successful businessman who founded and operated Ragan's Friendly Neighbor Furniture Store, which was the second oldest business in town; and

WHEREAS, he was also a man of many different trades and abilities. He was a master plumber, preacher, electrician, heavy equipment operator, newspaper publisher, radio

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personality, carpenter, and writer. As a storyteller, he kept his audiences captivated. As a prankster, he kept his prey nervous and onlookers amazed at his mischievous ingenuity; and

WHEREAS, always active in politics, he was a self-proclaimed die-hard, yellow-dog Democrat, serving as state chairman of the Tennessee Democratic Party County Chairs for four years and as Chairman of the Democratic Party in Dickson County from the late 1970s until his death; and

WHEREAS, he was immensely proud of his political affiliation with the Democratic Party which he had begun in childhood; although he was a die-hard Democrat, many of his closest friends were Republicans; and

WHEREAS, he served on the Dickson County Commission from 1986-1990, and to that position he brought dedication, energy, integrity, great honesty and his unflagging concern for his fellow citizens, and

WHEREAS, as county commissioner he served as Chairman of the Law Enforcement and County Courts Committee; he also astutely served as Chairman of the Sheriff's Civil Service Board; and

WHEREAS, Henry Ragan lived a long and distinguished life which has and will continue to serve as an meritorious example to many people. His unselfish service to his community and to his fellow man throughout his life represents a legacy that shall never fade; and

WHEREAS, Henry Ragan was a community leader, being involved in numerous civic and charitable activities; he was co-founder of the Old Timers' Day celebration and participated in countless fund-raising activities; and

WHEREAS, Henry Ragan was a Christian. He was a deacon at the Walnut Street Church of Christ, where he taught adult Bible classes for years. He had also preached the Gospel for several years; and

WHEREAS, He was recognized as a serious student of the Bible and had the ability to preach an in-depth sermon or to teach a Bible class on a moment's notice without preparation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ragan was married to Nancy Carroll Ragan who preceded him in death. This loving couple raised two children, Dale Ragan and Donna Siegel; and

WHEREAS, he also had five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, but Mr. Ragan's family extended far beyond his immediate family to the many thousands of people he touched in many different ways; and

WHEREAS, the legacy Mr. Ragan leaves behind will be remembered and treasured by friends and associates for many years to come; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this legislative body should pause in its deliberations to remember the exemplary life of this fine Tennessean; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Mr. Henry Ragan, remembering with admiration his exemplary character and his many selfless contributions to the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Mr. Henry Ragan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause